AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for generating a <u>chronic condition</u> risk index for an individual using said individual's pharmacy claims by a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

(1)   retrieving by the computer system said pharmacy claims from a pharmacy claims database, and processing by the computer system said pharmacy claims to identify any chronic conditions possessed by said individual;

(2)   processing by the computer system said pharmacy claims to identify any compliance medications prescribed to said individual;

(3)   generating a chronic condition score by summing regression coefficients for each chronic condition possessed by said individual;

(4)   generating a compliance medication score by summing products of regression coefficients for each compliance medication prescribed to said individual with associated medication supply weights, or compliance;

(5)   generating a modified chronic condition score by multiplying said chronic condition score by an overall chronic condition regression coefficient;

(6)   further modifying said modified chronic condition score by subtracting a no-claims weight from said chronic condition score, if said individual has no pharmacy claims; and

(7)   generating, by the computer system, said <u>chronic condition</u> risk index by summing said modified chronic condition score and said compliance medication score.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said associated medication supply weights are determined by summing a total supply of an associated compliance medication prescribed to said individual.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compliance medication score represents said individual's compliance for an associated compliance medication.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said no-claims weight indicates that said individual has not been diagnosed with a chronic condition.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said no-claims weight indicates that said individual has not been prescribed any medications whatsoever.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said no-claims weight is not applied if said individual has been prescribed a medication.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said overall chronic condition regression coefficient accounts for variances in said <u>chronic condition</u> risk index.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said pharmacy claims are obtained from ~~a~~ the pharmacy claims database managed by at least one of a managed care organization, a pharmacy benefits manager, or a human resources department.

Claims 9-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of retrieving, by the computer system, patient information comprising patient eligibility data from at least one of a health insurer database and a pharmacy benefits database, and wherein said generating, by the computer system, said <u>chronic condition</u> risk index further comprises generating the <u>chronic condition</u> risk index responsive to the patient eligibility data.

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24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, by the computer system, using the <u>chronic condition</u> risk index clinical case identification with respect to the patient.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, by the computer system, using the <u>chronic condition</u> risk index, and determining variation in at least one of estimated total healthcare costs and utilization by the patient.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, by the computer system, using the <u>chronic condition</u> risk index, whether to generate comparable groups which may have differing rates of chronic illness and adjusting for factors including at least one of adverse and favorable selection into at least one health plans, programs and health-related interventions.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer system for generating a <u>chronic condition</u> risk index for an individual using said individual's pharmacy claims, said computer system comprising processor and a memory medium storing instructions for controlling said processor, wherein said processor executes the instructions stored on said memory medium and performs the following functionality:

(1)   retrieving by the computer system said pharmacy claims from a pharmacy claims database, and processing by the computer system said pharmacy claims to identify any chronic conditions possessed by said individual;

(2)   processing by the computer system said pharmacy claims to identify any compliance medications prescribed to said individual;

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(3)   generating a chronic condition score by summing regression coefficients for each chronic condition possessed by said individual;

(4)   generating a compliance medication score by summing products of regression coefficients for each compliance medication prescribed to said individual with associated medication supply weights, or compliance;

(5)   generating a modified chronic condition score by multiplying said chronic condition score by an overall chronic condition regression coefficient;

(6)   further modifying said modified chronic condition score by subtracting a no-claims weight from said chronic condition score, if said individual has no pharmacy claims; and

(7)   generating, by the computer system, said chronic condition risk index by summing said modified chronic condition score and said compliance medication score.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said associated medication supply weights are determined by summing a total supply of an associated compliance medication prescribed to said individual.

29.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said compliance medication score represents said individual's compliance for an associated compliance medication.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said no-claims weight indicates that said individual has not been diagnosed with a chronic condition.

31.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said no-claims weight indicates that said individual has not been prescribed any medications whatsoever.

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said no-claims weight is not applied if said individual has been prescribed a medication.

33.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said overall chronic condition regression coefficient accounts for variances in said chronic condition risk index.

34.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said pharmacy claims are obtained from the pharmacy claims database managed by at least one of a managed care organization, a pharmacy benefits manager, or a human resources department.

35.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said computer system retrieves said patient information comprising patient eligibility data from at least one of a health insurer database and a pharmacy benefits database, and wherein said generating, by the computer system, said chronic condition risk index further comprises generating the chronic condition risk index responsive to the patient eligibility data.

36.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said computer system determines using the chronic condition risk index clinical case identification with respect to the patient.

37.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said computer system determines using the chronic condition risk index, and determining variation in at least one of estimated total healthcare costs and utilization by the patient.

38.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said computer system determines using the chronic condition risk index whether to generate comparable groups which may have differing rates of chronic illness and adjusts for factors including at least one of adverse and favorable selection into at least one health plans, programs and health-related interventions.

39.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein if said individual has no pharmacy claims, an indicator relating to said patient's compliance with a prescribed medication is set to indicate that there was no use of said prescribed medication.

40.   (New) The computer system of claim 27, wherein if said individual has no pharmacy claims, an indicator relating to said patient's compliance with a prescribed medication is set to indicate that there was no use of said prescribed medication.

41.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein said generated chronic condition risk index is used in at least one of explaining and predicting variation in pharmacy-related costs and variation in total healthcare costs or utilization.

42.   (New) The computer system of claim 27, wherein said generated chronic condition risk index is used in at least one of explaining and predicting variation in pharmacy-related costs and variation in total healthcare costs or utilization.

43.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining at least one of pharmacy-related costs and total healthcare costs using said generated chronic condition risk index.

44.   (New) The computer system of claim 27, further comprising determining at least one of pharmacy-related costs and total healthcare costs using said generated chronic condition risk index.